



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

Release Date: April 20, 2004

Release Number: 04-75

Contact: Colleen Hiam or Perry Pedini

Phone: 716-282-4612

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL WINS NATIONAL SBA AWARD

Steve Kappa recognized for outstanding contributions to disaster recovery

CHARLESTON, WV – The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that Steven S. Kappa, Director of Emergency Services for the State of West Virginia, has been named the national winner of this year's Phoenix Award for Outstanding Contributions to Disaster Recovery by a Public Official.

This annual award recognizes a state or local government official's exceptional contributions to a community's recovery following a disaster. Mr. Kappa will accept his prestigious award as part of the SBA's National Small Business Week celebration that will be held in Orlando, Fla. May 19 - 21.

"This award is symbolic of the extraordinary leadership and dedication displayed by Mr. Kappa in responding to the needs of the many state residents who were impacted by the three natural disasters that hit West Virginia last year," said SBA Area Director William E. Leggiero, Jr. "On each occasion, Steve and his network of county emergency managers worked tirelessly to insure the safety and well-being of disaster victims throughout the state. His efforts played a large role in the recovery of dozens of homeowners and communities across West Virginia."

Since Kappa was appointed to his position in 2001, West Virginia has been affected by numerous federally declared disasters. Through its disaster loan program, the SBA, an independent Federal agency, offers low-interest, long-term loans to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and nonprofit organizations. As a result of the 2003 disasters, the SBA approved more than \$17.1 million in low-interest disaster loans for West Virginia residents.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster

###

SBA Disaster Assistance Office/Area 1 - 360 Rainbow Blvd., South - Niagara Falls, NY 14303